

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/707,085
Docket No.: 11399-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Applicants appreciate that claim 6 is objected but considered to be allowable.

Claims 1-3, 4-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekine (U.S. Patent 6,580,486). In addition, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U. S. Patent Kim et al.; hereinafter Kim). Applicants have added claim 21. After entry of amendments, claims 1-9 and 21 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 4-5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekine. The Office Action also rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

1. In the present invention, as for example shown in FIG. 2, the first shielding layer 222 is *within the non-display region 216* and between the LC layer 204 and the substrate 202. It means that the first shielding layer 222 is extending to the display region 217. In addition, the black matrix layer 212 is between the LC layer 204 and the substrate 200, as recited in newly added claim 21. This means that the first shielding layer 222 is not connected with the black matrix layer 212.

Customer No.: 31561
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Docket No.: 11399-US-PA

2. In re Sekine, in Fig. 7, the Office Action considers the region covered by substrate 60 is the display region, and the non-display region is around the display region. The other substrate should be the substrate 60 (it seems that the Office Action has referred to the substrate 20 in Kim not in Sekin).

In Fig. 9 or Fig. 10 of Sekine, the shielding layer 66 (col. 14, line 56) or “the polysilicon metal film 101 and switch transistor 102” have been considered by the Office Action as the shield layer. Even though the layers 101 and 102 are not the shielding layer, they are considered together by the Office Action. *It should be noted that the display region is the region defined by the substrate 60. However, all the layers are within the display region.* Therefore, *Sekine failed to disclose the shielding layer within the non-display region*, as recited in independent claim 1. Sekine further failed to disclose the features as recited in dependent claims 2-3, 4-5 and 7-9.

3. In re Kim, in FIG. 5, the single light-shielding layer 43 includes the matrix portion and the stripe portion. However, the light-shielding layer 43 has extended to the display region (pixel element array portion (col. 4, line 17). Therefore, Kim failed to *disclose the shielding layer within the non-display region*, as recited in independent claim 1.

4. For the further consideration with respect to claim 21, the black matrix layer is more specifically defined to be separating from the light-shielding layer.

Customer No.: 31561
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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, and 21 patently define over the prior art references as well. Claim 6 is considered to be allowable.

Customer No.: 31561
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Docket No.: 11399-US-PA

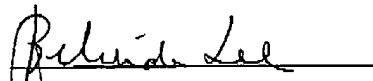
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-9 and 21 of the invention patentably define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


Belinda Lee

Registration No.: 46,863

Jiang Chyun Intellectual Property Office
7th Floor-1, No. 100
Roosevelt Road, Section 2
Taipei, 100
Taiwan
Tel: 011-886-2-2369-2800
Fax: 011-886-2-2369-7233
Email: belinda@jcipgroup.com.tw
Usa@jcipgroup.com.tw